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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

DECEMBER 15, 1977, ISSUE NO. 48

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E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

SEASON'S GREETINGS

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

FOREIGN MACKEREL QUOTA IN PMP REJECTED!

Mid-Atlantic and New England anglers recently won a big one when the final version of the mackerel PMP came out without the 34,000 metric ton allocation to the foreign fleets that the original plan contained. The original PMP was so patently in violation of the intent of the 200 Mile Limit law that it even surprised NMFS scientific personnel. Yet, it appeared that the State and Commerce Departments were intent on pushing it through to satisfy foreign relations' objectives. The Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils opposed the foreign quota, and the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources was prepared to take the matter to court.

While those of us involved in the effort to change the PMP (including the Councils, Fisherman, ECSAMR, States of Maine and Massachusetts, many individual fishermen, etc.) would like to take credit for this dramatic turnaround, the primary credit should go to the influential Congressmen who got involved and probably saved the day! Prominently involved were: Norman Lent (R-East Rockaway), Edwin Forsythe (R-N.J.), John Murphy (D-Staten Island), and Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.). As noted in last week's column, Lent sent a letter to the Administrator of NOAA (cosigned by seven other Congressmen, including Murphy and Biaggi) strongly opposing the foreign mackerel allocation. Forsythe sent his own detailed letter to NOAA Administrator Richard Frank, calling for changes in the PMP to conform with the proposed mackerel fishery management plan of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council—exactly what eventually was done. Murphy, Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, called a meeting with NMFS officials to gather facts relative to the situation. Without this assistance from powerful members of the House Committee, it's doubtful that our voices would have been heard over those within the bowels of Government who were only too willing to trade off our fisheries for other objectives. Perhaps this incident will finally establish the fact that our fisheries are not legitimate trade-off material!

As in the proposed Mid-Atlantic Council FMP, the PMP reduces the foreign take to a by-catch of 1,200 metric tons and estimates U.S. capacity at 14,300 metric tons. The PMP only controls foreign fishing until a Council FMP is approved. Only the FMP can place restraints on domestic fishermen. It's interesting to note that while all domestic interests opposed the foreign allocation, the Soviet Union called for a total allowable catch of 165,000 metric tons, based on a much higher estimate of the present spawning stock. Of course, the Russians have been consistently over-estimating stock size for years in order to get greater allocations in ICNAF—a course which resulted in the present dismal situation. Poland simply requested an allocation similar to this year's.

The new PMP will prevent foreign exploitation of the mackerel stocks during January and February. This will not only leave a much greater spawning stock for the spring spawning period, but may well result in better inshore fishing as the schools should be larger and more compact when they arrive in local waters. Our thanks go out to those who took the time to write about this crucial matter, and especially to the Congressmen who made that effort worthwhile. Keep them in mind next November!

Billfish PMP Ready to Go

The National Marine Fisheries Service now has a final PMP ready for approval. Though it is generally acceptable and a big improvement over the present situation, we did lose a couple of important provisions at the last minute. The Southern Councils apparently were afraid of the compromise that involved a 100 mile "no taking" zone that would effectively prevent the longliners from even fishing in that area (since they can't avoid hooking billfish and sharks on fifty-mile longlines) as it also allowed them to retain dead billfish caught in the 100-200 mile portion of the zone. As billfish representative for the Mid-Atlantic Council, I had okayed this provision, provided that the dead billfish could be retained only by vessels with observers aboard. Hal Lyman assured me that the New England Council did likewise. The "no taking" zone would have been particularly advantageous in that the foreigners would have been kept out of the sport fishing areas altogether, therefore increasing availability of billfish to the anglers at that time. Additionally, it would have served as a "back door" approach to saving some of the pre-spawning giant tuna the Japanese are catching in the Gulf of Mexico each winter. This is something we can't control now due to the tuna exemption in the 200 Mile Law. I'll work to get this provision back into the fishery management plan presently being worked on by the South Atlantic Council.

Another last minute change involved sharks. As noted earlier this year, my objections to the original shark quota of over 30,000 metric tons was taken into account and resulted in both a reduction to 1,200 metric tons and a prohibition on the retention of blues, porbeagle, and mako. Since the other Councils aren't too interested in sharks, I had to fight my own private war for our Council's position on that subject. NMFS scientist Jack Brawner jokingly refers to that section of the plan as the "Al Ristori Amendment." Unfortunately, it became necessary for me to give a little in this area just before the plan came out. The law requires maximum sustained yield and optimum yield figures on species before they are prohibited to foreigners. Our information on sharks is so minimal that not even a wild guess could be taken in this instance. In discussing the matter with Richard Stone, NMFS recreational fishery chief, and shark expert Jack Casey, we agreed that the 1,200 metric ton allocation would effectively take care of the problem for 1978. The longliners start in the Gulf of Mexico during the winter and will, undoubtedly, take their shark quota there; that will automatically protect the blues and porbeagles that aren't found in the Gulf. Casey also felt that few makos would be caught in that fishery. Therefore, the prohibition on retention of blues, porbeagles, and makos will be out this year, but should be back in the next plan when the necessary figures are available.

The South Atlantic Councils' FMP is continuing to make progress. It has been decided that the marlin and sailfish portion will be split from the swordfish, as the latter is a mixed sport and commercial fishery, further complicated by the fact that most sales made are technically illegal due to the mercury problem. The billfish plan will restrict marlin and sailfish to sport fishing. The idea of bag limits was dropped, as was licensing. Statistics will be gathered by survey. There will be a recommendation that proper utilization of catches be made. I objected to this as I'd like to see a mandatory provision adopted in order to prevent the waste of billfish that gives the sport a black eye and makes our case for conservation of the resource harder to support. As this plans nears completion, additional hearing dates will be arranged.

The billfish PMP prohibits retention of billfish by the foreign fleets and requires their release in the water. NMFS hopes to have observers on twenty percent of the longliners. Despite State Department and tuna industry objections, foreign longliners will be required to have permits. Incidentally, Council objections to other PMPs were also largely incorporated into the final plans. The foreign herring quota is out and the windows are altered so as to, hopefully, eliminate most of the by-catch of porgies, fluke, and sea bass. Sea bass were added to the prohibited species list, but we didn't succeed in adding porgies and "other flounders." Also added at this time were menhaden, tilefish, redfish (ocean perch), billfish, and sharks other than dogfish.

Looking at the overall picture, we've made considerable gains during the first year of the 200 Mile Limit's operation and are looking forward to even better things in the future. Your support has been, and will continue to be, vital to that objective!

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, NO. 48 DECEMBER 15, 1977

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The Fisherman will not publish during the last two weeks of December. Theoretically, the staff will be on "vacation," but actually we will all be working on the new special *8-Week Mid-Winter Package* which will contain many "How-To" articles. *See you in Janaury!!!*

About the Cover—

The staff of *The Long Island Fisherman* would like to wish all of our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Dr. William A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Scott Simons — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
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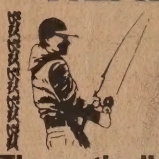

The Fisherman will not publish during the last two weeks of December.

Theoretically, the staff will be on vacation. But in actuality, we will all be hard at work preparing for the coming year—our special Boat Show Issues and the new special *8-Week Mid-Winter Package* which will contain all kinds of HOW-TO articles to help you keep you busy during the idle winter months.

See you the first week of January!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from the staff of The Fisherman

SPRING IS *COMING!!!*

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PORT OF EGYPT
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May we take this opportunity to wish all of our customers and all of "The Fisherman's" readers a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a great NEW YEAR!!!

From the Editor's Head

★★★

Pass It On...

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING—COAST GUARD

On December 30, 1977, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing to receive testimony about proposed changes in Coast Guard regulations pertaining to personal flotation devices on party boats, commercial vessels, and charter boats. Proposed changes include the attachment of battery powered lights and reflective material to all life jackets. The National Party Boat Alliance plans to send representation to Washington, D.C. The meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., in the **NASSA BUILDING**, 407th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

IGFA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN REGULATIONS

During 1977 IGFA conducted a worldwide survey soliciting recommendations on changes or additions to the international angling rules and regulations. After due consideration of all recommendations received, the IGFA Angling Rules Committee and the Executive Committee have adopted the following additions and modifications (effective for all world record and annual IGFA fishing contest claims for fish caught on or after January 1, 1978).

Equipment Regulations:

1. The use of lead core multifilament fishing lines will be allowed.

2. The rule covering the use of two single hooks for bait fishing has been modified to allow the point of one hook to be passed through the eye of the other hook.

3. When using two hooks with "teaser type" artificial lures, the hooks **need not be** attached separately to the leader.

4. Previously the use of gang hooks was limited to casting and retrieving. This rule has been modified to read as follows: "Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specially designed for this use. Gang hooks shall be limited to a maximum of two hooks (either single, double, treble, or a combination of any two). These hooks must be permanently and directly attached to the lure and must be free-swinging."

5. Exceptions have always been made to the 8-foot maximum length for gaffs and nets when fishing from piers and bridges. These exceptions have been extended to include "platforms or other structures that are too high for the practical use of an 8-foot gaff or net."

Angling Rules:

1. The rule regarding the angler's role in fighting the fish has been made more specific, and reads as follows: "From the time a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and bring the fish to gaff without the aid of any other person, except as provided for in the regulations.

2. The rule regarding chumming has been reworded as follows: "Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting."

3. Intentionally foul-hooking a fish is prohibited.

4. Catching a fish in a manner where the double line or leader never leaves the rod tip is prohibited.

Rules governing the submission of world record applications have been modified as follows. These changes are effective for all fish caught on or after January 1, 1978:

1. Nine additional species have been added to the world record-keeping system. The following is a list of these species, along with the maximum line class in which record applications will be accepted:

halibut, Atlantic	130 lb.
halibut, California	80 lb.
halibut, Pacific	130 lb.
jack, crevalle	50 lb.
jack, horse-eye	50 lb.
pollack	50 lb.
pompano, African	50 lb.
spearfish	80 lb.
trevally, giant	130 lb.

2. Reduced maximum line classes have been established for certain species now in the record-keeping system. The following is a list of these species and the maximum line class in which record applications will be accepted:

30 lb: Black sea bass; bonefish) Atlantic bonito; Pacific bonito; flounder; kawakawa; spotted seatrout; black skipjack; tautog; little tunny, and weakfish.

50 lb.: bluefish; permit; pollack; rainbow runner; snook; blackfin tuna, and skipjack tuna.

80 lb.: albacore; great barracuda; striped bass; cobia; cod; dolphin; black drum; red drum; king mackerel; Atlantic sailfish; white sea bass; tanguigue, and longtail tuna.

130 lb.: Applications will continue to be accepted for all IGFA world record species not listed above in the maximum 130 line class category.

Weights Needed to Defeat or Tie Existing Records:

Requirements have been changed as follows: "To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 20 pounds, the replacement must weigh at least four ounces more than the existing record. To replace a record for a fish weighing 20 pounds up to 100 pounds, the replacement must weigh at least one-half of one percent more than the existing record weight. For example, at 200 pounds the additional weight required would be one pound; at 400 pounds, the additional weight required would be two pounds, etc.

Weighing Requirements:

1. The following has been added: "The weight of the sling platform or rope (if used to secure the fish to the scale) must be determined and deducted from the total weight.

2. The requirement that scales must be checked and certified every six months has been modified as follows: "All scales must be regularly checked for accuracy and certified in accordance with applicable Government regulations and time limitations. In no instance will certification more than one year old be accepted. IGFA reserves the right to have any scale recertified for accuracy if there are any indications that the scale might not have weighed correctly."

HELP FIGHT MARINE POLLUTION

The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island announces fund raising program to fight marine pollution.

Concerned citizens are asked to bring newspapers, magazines, car batteries and aluminum to the Pathmark parking lot, Merrick Road, Seaford, on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REWARD—REWARD—REWARD

Will Mr. Wilson Chin and Mr. Ray Curran please call Susan at the Fisherman office! Need correct mailing address for your orders.

CLUB NEWS

MERCURY SPORTSMAN CLUB LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Mercury Sportsman Club based in Astoria, Long Island, has a few openings for new members. The Club's activities include bay and offshore fishing, as well as other sports and activities. Members need not own boats. Call Charlie Guardascione, Club President, at (212) 271-9579 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., if you are seriously interested in actively participating in Club activities.

NEW OFFICERS FOR MORICHES ANGLERS

At the November meeting of the Moriches Anglers, Inc., the following members were elected to office for the year of 1978.

President: Kenneth J. Malone; **Vice President:** Waldo A. Rodriguez; **Treasurer:** Stanley Drowdzdowski; **Correspondence Sec'y:** Ronald Lamiroult; **Recording Sec'y:** Gary Lobato, and **Sgt. at Arms:** Bill Kostinek.

HIGH & DRY FISHING CLUB CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

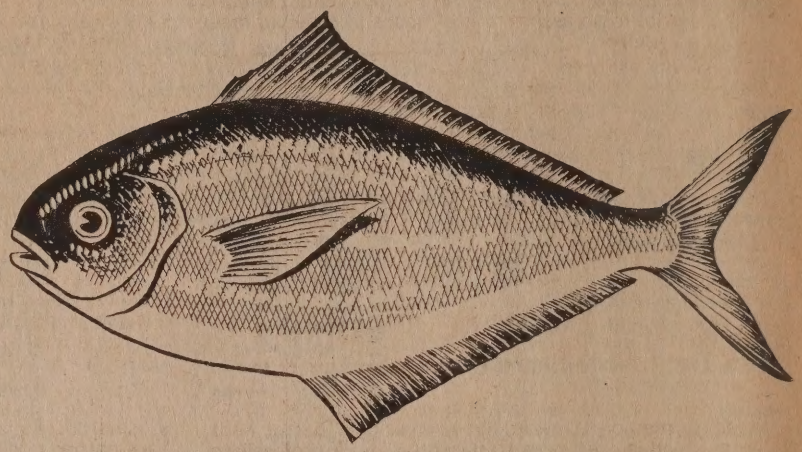
The High & Dry Fishing Club celebrated its first year of existence December 4, at Arena's Seafood Restaurant, West Hempstead. At this time, the winners of the seasonal fishing contest received plaques. The following members received awards: Blackfish - Jim Caffray; Bluefish - Lou Angelone; Fluke (tie) - Ellen Hasselbring and Dan Hoffman, and Weakfish - John Vesik.

The Club has also held elections for 1978. The following members were elected: **President** - Dan Hoffman (2nd term); **Vice President** - Pete McCloat; **Secretary** - Ellen Hasselbring, and **Treasurer** - Jeff Hasselbring (2nd term).

Installation of officers will take place on January 8, 1978, the first meeting of the New Year.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

BUTTERFISH
Pronotus triacanthus



BENNY SENT ME! The little fish with many aliases usually roams in and out of our waters without too much attention. Some of the names that are given to the species are: dollarfish, shiner, skipjack, sheepshead, and harvestfish. However, there is another species which is common in southern waters that is called the harvestfish. The real harvestfish is a close relative but easily distinguished where their ranges overlap.

DESCRIPTION: The fish only averages between six and nine inches, although some specimens may reach twelve inches. Fish of only several inches will weigh only an ounce or two, while twelve-inch fish can weigh about one pound. The species has a single, long, soft-rayed dorsal fin and an anal fin that is almost as long as the dorsal fin. They lack ventral fins which is a help in identifying the species from other similar fish. In addition, the butterfish has long pointed pectoral fins, a short, blunt head and a small mouth. Its small size and tiny mouth are the principal reasons why the fish is not sought after by more recreational anglers.

COLOR: Butterfish have rather uniform coloration. The dorsal surface is often dark blue, but more usually gray-blue. The sides may have tints of other colors and there are irregular dark spots that disappear soon after the fish dies. The belly is silvery.

NO GIANT SCHOOLS! Whereas many common small fish that serve as fodder for larger predators roam the oceans in large dense schools, the butterfish is more likely to travel in small pods or loosely organized schools. They prefer sandy bottoms and are rarely, if ever, encountered over rocky or muddy bottoms. The fish move inshore during the summer months and may invade shallow bays, estuaries, and even creeks.

SMALL, BUT AGILE! The species is characterized as having a very thin and deep body which apparently minimizes water drag and allows the fish surprising speed and agility. Commercial draggers report that they are able to take many more butterfish at night than during the day. It has been reasoned that they are able to avoid the trawl during the day, but cannot see it at night. However, it should be pointed out that other explanations may be superior. For example, it may be that their schooling behavior changes after dark and that they swim in more compact schools, thus making dragging operations more efficient.

VARIATIONS IN HABITS. Throughout the northern range of the species they have been reported to be a surface swimming fish, rarely swimming more than several feet below the surface of the water. However, in our waters they are frequently found hugging the bottom in water that may be as deep as 100 feet. This is especially true where tide rips form around structure. Here, the species will be found to stay near the down-current side of the structure. When schools of butterfish can be found holding close to bottom structure, blues, bass and weakfish are usually not too far away and these predators can be taken using spoons, diamond jigs, and large bucktails, either jigged or trolled close to the bottom.

THE MENU. I once saw a special television show that explained the trophic dynamics of the seas in terms of big fish eating smaller fish. The impression gained is that the rest of the diverse sea critters play an insignificant role in the food chain. However, it is the small invertebrates that serve as primary fodder for the sea. Plankton, squid, and a variety of crustacea, as well as worms, larvae, and shellfish are eaten in great quantities by bait fishes and the fry of almost all fishes. This is also the diet of butterfish. In our waters, amphipods are a very important part of the diet during May and June, while other small creatures make up the bulk of the diet during the summer and early fall.

SPAWNING: Spawning probably stretches out from May and June, through early September with peak spawning occurring during July. Spawning does not appear to be continuous. Rather, it seems that the fish spawn intermittently since juveniles of varying but distinct group sizes can be found throughout their range. Typically, spawning is early in the southern part of the range and may not begin until sometime in June off of northern New England. The fish do not spawn inshore, but several miles offshore. The eggs are buoyant and drift with the currents which presumably carry them inshore during the hatching and early juvenile stages. Spawning is not equally successful throughout the range of the species. The most successful spawning occurs off southern New England; however, scientists are at a loss to explain whether it is cold temperatures or type of available foods which is the most important factor determining either success or failure. The eggs hatch in about forty-eight hours when the sea temperatures are about sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit.

GROWTH: Butterfish mature during their second year, when they are about seven inches long. Young of the year fish appear to fall into two size categories when sampled in late summer. It is believed, therefore, there are at least two spawnings. The first hatch will be about four inches during late August, while the second hatch will be between two and three inches.

SYMBIOSIS?? Have you ever seen the underwater television shows that describe how clownfish swim safely through the tentacles of sea anemones that otherwise feed on many types of small fish? If you have ever dabbled in saltwater aquariums maybe you have had the "dynamic duo" in your very own living room? It is a relationship that benefits both organisms. However, this is not unique. Young haddock have been reported to seek shelter under the bell of large jellyfish and so, too, young butter fish have been observed under jellyfish. Sometimes several dozen fish can be counted per jellyfish. However, this does not mean that the young butterfish cannot live outside of their benevolent hosts.

LARGE RANGE: The butterfish's range extends from South Carolina to Nova Scotia. However, they are most abundant along the Middle Atlantic states. For fishermen in the Middle Atlantic states, the season lasts from late April through most of December. When the waters cool, they migrate offshore to depths of between twenty and one-hundred-twenty fathoms depending upon whether it is the southern or northern part of the range. Draggers sometimes encounter them offshore while fishing

(Continued on page 20.)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

★ HOOK SNELLING ★

If you are a dedicated fisherman, I'm sure you have an interest in fishhooks. Should that interest be lacking, I can assure you of one thing: you will never become a truly successful fisherman.

I know this is a broad statement to make, but nevertheless, it is true. Master anglers know that no matter how exceptional their tackle, it is only an aid to get that all-important hook in the fish's mouth.

And being a dedicated angler, I'm sure you've done a bit of experimentation along the way. I'm sure, too, that some of this was directed toward hook snelling and combining lengths of leader material to an assortment of hooks in order to meet the exacting requirements you deemed necessary at the time. I also know that when attempting to join those hooks and leaders, you employed common overhand knots, double-overhand knots, clinch knots—you name it. In fact, every knot but the correct one. And by so doing, you've noticed the completed job left much to be desired.

Your troubles are over if you use the following simple hook-snelling method to form the professional barrel knot. Master it, which is easy, and I guarantee you a professional job.

You will need a supply of the following materials which, fortunately, are easy to obtain: loose hooks in the desired size, nylon snelling material of the proper test, and a good hook-tying vise such as used by freshwater fishermen for tying trout flies. All these are available at any well-stocked tackle shop. Add a yardstick, a nail clipper, a pair of pliers, and you're all set. (For large hooks, you may want to use a small bench vise.)

Should you have difficulty securing exactly what you need, send for catalogs issued by those tackle companies catering to sport fishermen. Because not all mail order houses may carry a complete selection, it is advisable to send for several. If one doesn't have what you need, another will. Midland Tackle Co., 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974, has the snelling material. Send for their free catalog.

Before we begin, let me caution you about one important thing: **don't** substitute your reel's monofilament line for the necessary snelling material. Because mono is limp, it will not do a satisfactory job. It will curl and twist about your main line when in use, causing no end of difficulty and much gnashing of teeth. Snelling material is made stiff for the express purpose of holding the hook out and away from the main line, putting the bait within easy reach of cautious fish. Use professional material and you'll have no trouble turning out a professional job.

Set up a working area for yourself, a place where you can concentrate on the job at hand. The first step is to measure and cut your snelling material into the desired lengths. Remember, it is always necessary to add at least four inches to your measurements to allow for the material used in making both the barrel knot and the perfection loop. We'll get into how to make this loop at the end of the article.

Fig. 1. Place hook in vise and tighten securely. Take a pre-cut length of snelling material and place it over the hook shank as shown. When using hook with turned-down eye, place left-hand strand through the eye; plain ringed hook, over the eye. Allow at least six inches of material to extend past the eye. It is also important to have a working loop no less than four inches in diameter for easier wrapping. The right-hand strand should extend about two inches along the length of the hook shank.

Fig. 2. Hold both strands tightly and make five turns along hook shank with right-hand strand, beginning at hook eye. Make the first wrap fairly tight, the next four with less pressure.

Fig. 3. When the five wraps are completed, hold them firmly against the hook shank and carefully pull on the long strand that juts past the hook eye; wraps will fall neatly into place. Snub tightly against the hook eye, then use pliers and pull on the short end. At the same time, pull on the long strand with your free hand, taking up all slack. When using a plain ringed hook, twist the snell around so that it lies inside of shank. Tighten once more. Your snelling knot is now completed.

Fig. 4. Use a nail clipper and snip off the short end close to the knot. Allow at least one-eighth inch to remain to avoid slippage. When properly made, this knot will not fail.

That's all there is to snelling a hook. After a bit of experience, you should be able to snell one hook per minute with this method.

The Perfection Loop. This eye-appealing and essential loop is easily made. Start with a backhanded right to left twist, using the short end of the material to form a loop of about one inch. Then hold the loop firmly and take the short end again and pass it completely around the **front**. You now have two loops. Continue around the back of the first loop with the short end, bring it forward and lay it between the two loops. Hold firmly and push the second loop through the first and draw up tightly. Snip off all but one-eighth inch of the short end. It is important that this short end stick out at a 90° angle. If it doesn't, the knot is improperly tied and will fail.

The pleasant pastime of snelling hooks and leaders and tying the Perfection Loop is a snap; so don't attempt to make it difficult. Practice each step several times and you'll have no trouble whatsoever.

You have before you a whole winter to make ready a supply of hooks and leaders—but don't delay too long! Believe it or not, spring will be here before we know it. Knowing how to snell hooks and leaders will not only save you some hard-earned bucks, but you will catch more fish. Guaranteed!

FIG. 1

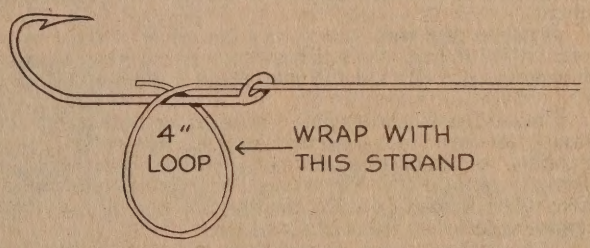


FIG. 2

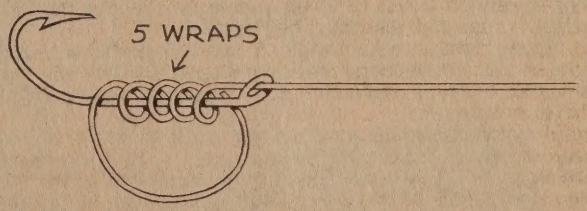


FIG. 3

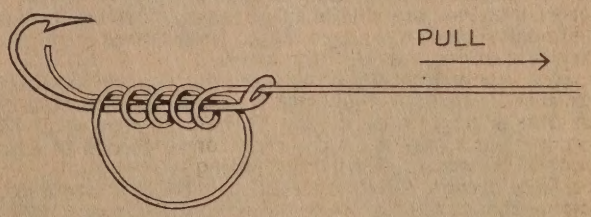
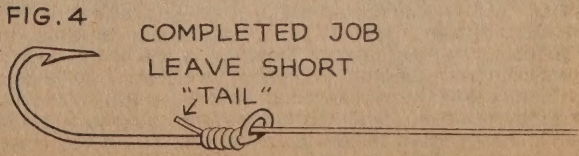


FIG. 4



Surf Side

with

John Fritz

Rules of the "Road" for Beach Buggies

The late night air was filled with dampness as the gentle southerly breeze flowed billows of fog around a lone caster working the falling tide at the False Bar. The calm water's surface was disturbed at first only by the rippling effect caused by the flowing tide as it collided with the obstruction of the bar. Then another dimension was added as the surface was further marred by the intermittent slap or splash as a school of bass went about its chore of obtaining its midnight snack at the expense of the pods of sand eels being swept along with the tide.

A silver RedFin whistles into the darkness as the surfcaster continues his ritual. One, two, three turns of the handle and the rod arches heavily as the lure is savagely struck by a hungry bass. The hook is set and the battle is on: the fish fighting for its life and the fisherman hoping for his reward for the four hours of fruitless casting already put in on this night.

About this time, the headlights of a buggy rounded the bend from the North Bar. As the Jeep approached the scene of the contest, it suddenly turned left to face the water, thereby illuminating the waterfront in the bright glare of its headlights.

The door swung open and the driver leaped out with a loud yell, "How you doing?" The only reply, which was more of a request, echoed back across the water, "Kill those damn lights!"

It fell on deaf ears, for by now the driver realized there were fish out in front and was frantically trying to get dressed while screaming into the CB mike about a blitz at the False Bar.

Preparations completed, the new arrival stumbled towards the water, remembering at the last minute to shut his car lights off. As he hurriedly splashed his way to join the surfman—who by now had brought his fish to gaff—headlights could be seen up and down the beach as a half dozen buggies sped to the scene of the action.

The constant string of questions brought no response from the angler busy stringing his sixteen pound bass. The frenzied retrieve of the darter brought no response as the calm surface is now only disturbed by the rip.

Sadly, the tight-lipped angler slowly worked his way back to the beach as the hopeful newcomers splashed their way into the water, laughing and joking about how they were going to slaughter those fish.

A hypothetical tale, for sure, but incidents similar to this occur much too frequently on the beach front these days. Although we are in a recession, with excessive unemployment, the popularity of surfcasting from a beach buggy has increased tremendously over the last few years. It seemed that in the past, surf fishermen spent years pounding the sand with the hope that someday they would be able to obtain a four-wheel drive. Now it seems that the beach vehicle comes first and the fishing techniques follow, which brings me to one reason for writing this particular article.

The sport of surfcasting can be one of pleasant satisfaction when that trophy fish is seen in the first light of day after a long, arduous night of casting. Because of its difficulties, the reward is greater when the results of your efforts come to a successful conclusion.

Anyone engaged in surf casting knows the obstacles, from outside sources, which must be contended with. Therefore, inconsiderate acts from our own clan are an added burden which we can do without. A previous article dealt with this same subject, but this time I would like to direct my attention to the operators of those hundreds of 4x4s which threaten to inundate any open beach on holiday weekends.

Before any four-wheel drive vehicle attempts to traverse the sandy beaches, certain equipment should be carried with you. These include a shovel, tow rope, jack, jack board, spare tire, and a tire inflating device. Other less important items, although sometimes required in order to obtain a permit, are spare fan belt, toilet and fire extinguisher. Common sense equipment should include the correct tires, jumper cables, a set of tools and a good flashlight. Remember, when you get stuck on the beach, assistance can be a long way off and no one I know of can stop an incoming tide. Seeking help from another buggy operator does pose an inconvenience and possibly excessive strain on the Good Samaritan's vehicle if you must be towed out of your predicament. Any two-wheel drive car seeking a tow after bogging down in the sand, can forget it. I'll call in a commercial tow truck to help the unfortunate guy, but that is it. With the cost of repairs or replacement of my buggy, I simply cannot afford to take the chance. After 105,000 miles, I only have so many miles left. The point is if you are going to drive off the road, at least come prepared. Anyone can get stuck, but be able to help yourself to some degree.

When you do bog down and have to dig yourself out, fill in those holes once you are out and on level ground again. If the holes you dug are in a narrow track, those coming behind will not be able to avoid the pitfall and may find themselves buried in the sand. When you have a narrow track through the dunes, such as the road at Democrat Point, any ill-equipped vehicle stuck in the track blocks all traffic to and from the beach. So you owe it to others to come prepared and let some of that air out of your tires.

When a track is established on a beach it makes for easier driving with less wear and tear on your vehicle. If confronted with a head-on situation where one vehicle must leave the track, generally the vehicle leaving the beach has the right of way. Naturally, if you have a light Bronco versus a heavy camper, the lighter vehicle should give way.

When the track runs along the open beach, do not park your vehicle so that it blocks other buggies from using the track. Beaches such as Democrat have ample room for parking off the track. In areas such as Split Rock at Montauk, where there is not much beachfront, room must be found among the rocks so that passage may be available for any vehicle driving through.

Speed is another important factor to be considered when driving in rough terrain and should be limited to ten miles per hour for your own safety, as well as others. Remember, people using the beaches are not conditioned to be on the constant alert for vehicles. This is their playground where the kids can run free, so be prepared for the unexpected.

If driving at night, headlights are a necessity, but a little thoughtfulness in the direction of the beam would be appreciated by those fishermen trying for a fish in the darkness. When pulling the car head-on to the water, kill the lights before making your turn. A quick glance at the place to be occupied will suffice to let you know if there are any obstructions. If there are no fishermen working the area, this procedure is not necessary; in fact, many buggy operators will intentionally direct their headlights into the water seeking the presence of bait.

Last summer, our beaches were desecrated with sludge and all manner of garbage. It is a crime that there is not much we can do about this pollution being washed upon our beaches other than make the powers that be aware of our displeasure and demand corrective action—for whatever good that will do, if we don't all get together and elect some politicians who care for the environment.

There are a few small things we can do as individuals which will make our beaches somewhat cleaner and safer. Obviously, the first is not to discard our trash on the beach, but carry it with us as we leave. Most of this trash is unsightly, but tossed-away food can create health problems and serve as an attraction for rats. Rusted fishhooks and broken glass are, on the other hand, capable of causing serious injury.

Make it a habit to carry a garbage bag in your vehicle and if there is room, when leaving the beach fill it up with some bottles or cans left by the thoughtless party ahead of you.

Just about every beach that is open to buggies requires a pass which is obtained from the Government agency concerned. Along with this permit, there are general rules of conduct which must be adhered to by the operator if this privilege is to be granted in future years.

Driving over the dunes is definitely a no-no on all beaches, although the bulldozers at Cedar have done a fine job

(Continued on page 14.)

THE FISHERMAN "IQ" TEST

(1) THIS CLAM IS THE LARGEST BURROWING BIVALVE IN THE WORLD - UP TO 10 LBS. IT IS THE GIANT
ATLANTIC COCKIE ☐
WEST COAST GEODUCK ☐
PACIFIC GAPER CLAM ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE.

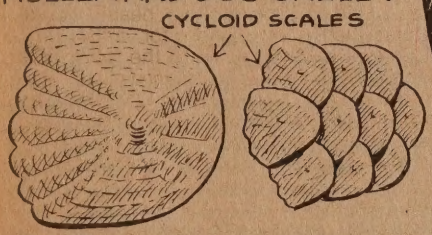
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A THOUSAND MILLION BLUEFISH OCCUR ANNUALLY IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC IN SUMMER. ALLOWING A RATION OF 10 FISH A DAY FOR EACH CHOPPER, HOW MANY FISH DO THEY KILL IN A SINGLE SEASON?

(3) MOURNING DOVES, WHICH RANGE ALL OVER THE U.S. ARE THE NATION'S MOST POPULAR GAME BIRD. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

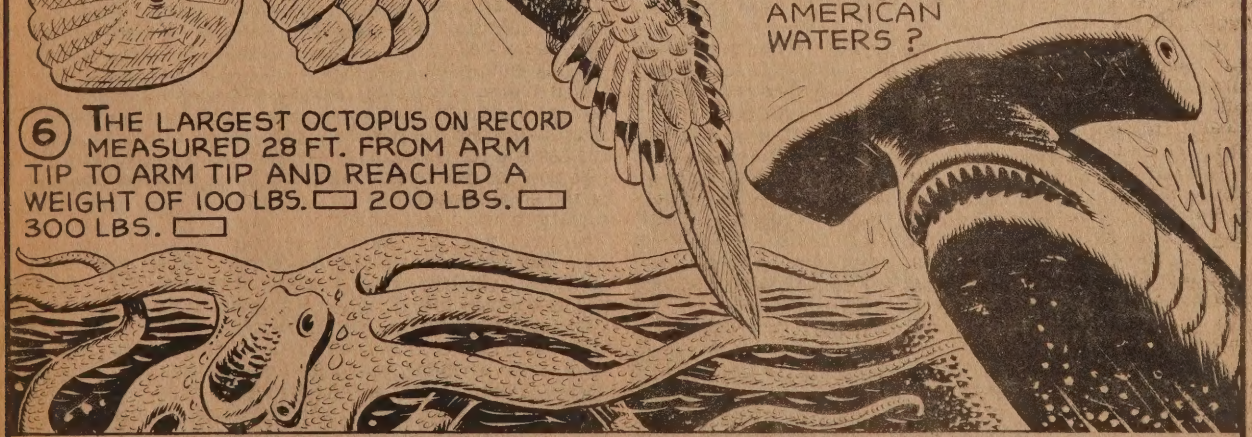
(4) THE SCHAEFER SALT WATER FISHING CONTEST STARTED IN 1947 WITH 41 PARTICIPATING CLUBS FROM N.Y., CONNECTICUT AND NEW JERSEY. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(5) HOW DO FISH SCALES REVEAL FISH HISTORY TO BIOLOGISTS LIKE DOC MULLER AND DOC GRELL?



(6) THE LARGEST OCTOPUS ON RECORD MEASURED 28 FT. FROM ARM TIP TO ARM TIP AND REACHED A WEIGHT OF 100 LBS. ☐ 200 LBS. ☐ 300 LBS. ☐

(7) WHERE AND WHEN WAS THE FIRST RECORDED FATAL SHARK ATTACK IN AMERICAN WATERS?



1 - THE GEODUCK CLAM. 2 - 1,200,000,000 FISH. 3 - TRUE. THREE MILLION HUNTERS IN 33 STATES KILL 49 MILLION DOVES OUT OF A POPULATION OF 500 MILLION BIRDS. 4 - TRUE. 5 - MICROSCOPALLY THEY CAN TELL GROWTH RATES, AGE, MIGRATION PATTERNS AND USUALLY SPAWNING FREQUENCY. 6 - 100 LBS. 7 - OFF LONG ISLAND IN 1815 BY A HAMMERHEAD SHARK.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

ADVANCED CODFISHING

★ Part Three ★

What bait should you use for codfish? Unknown to most fishermen, there are many more choices than the standard skimmer clam. Last year when I covered codfishing I wrote in depth about these alternative baits, and was surprised at the response from readers—two even won the pools on open boats. One angler wrote me a letter that he copped the pool with a big cow that couldn't resist the small live whiting he was using for bait. I ran into another fisherman (obviously a novice) at the Long Island Boat Show who told me he took his pool fish with a fresh chunk of mackerel. Both anglers caught their big fish for a combination of three reasons: **1.** they used bait other than that being used around them; **2.** they used bait that the cod were feeding on; **3.** they used bait that was either live or fresh-dead.

When codfishing from an open boat, the bait is free—skimmer clams. Now don't get me wrong—skimmer **are** an excellent bait for cod. The problem is you will be using the same bait as the fifty to one-hundred fishermen around you! Picture Mr. Cod swimming up to the boat and being confronted with a virtual wall of a hundred or more clams—why should he choose yours to eat? Is it prettier? Sexier? Does it **smell** better? Of course not. So you need an edge over the other anglers to make the fish attracted to your bait instead of the guy's next to you. The edge is simple: use a different bait, preferably something fresh that the cod are feeding on.

What are the cod feeding on, you ask? I don't know! But if you want to find out, open up the belly of the first cod you catch and see—and be prepared for a shock. Depending on the time of year and the area being fished, you'll probably find: flounder, whiting fry, mackerel, ling, sand crabs, sand eels, green crabs, baby dogfish, butterfish, lobster, hermit crabs. Notice I didn't mention skimmer clams. If you do find one, examine it carefully—the clam will look like it has been cut in half, with a hole in one end. The cut came from the mate's knife, and the hole is where another fisherman put the clam on his hook before the cod "stole" it from him. Face it guys, clams just aren't a large part of a cod's diet: they're just too hard to shuck. Gut a few cod and become a believer.

Use a second rod with a bottom rig with smaller hooks (1/0 beaks are a good choice) to catch your own bait. **Whatever** you catch that's small, slap it on your cod outfit for bait. If you caught it where you're codfishing, chances are any cod in the area will be feeding on it. When you hook up with potential bait on the light outfit, reel it to the surface **slowly**. Many cold water fish in deep water are susceptible to the bends and will die if brought to the surface too quickly, and you want to use live bait whenever possible. Use live whiting, flounder, and ling live—but **never** use a live mackerel or dogfish for bait unless you want your bottom rig tied into a couple of pretty loops and knots, along with a few of your fellow fishermen's rigs. If the mackerel are small enough, use them whole after stunning them. Larger mackerel should be cut into chunk bait. It's not uncommon for a dogfish to give premature birth on the deck—stun one and try it for bait. And don't overlook the contents of the stomachs of the cod you gut as bait. Small crabs, lobster parts, sand eels or any other fresh-looking fish should go right on your hook.

Rigging up is simple, which is not to say that you can throw any garbage together for a bottom rig for codfishing—there are definite rules to follow on the road to success. The first unbreakable rule is: **use a minimum of hardware**. "Minimum" means a barrel swivel, hook and a sinker. Period. Cod are often extremely line shy, so why use a lot of junk that serves no practical purpose except, perhaps, to spook the fish? Pretty red beads, metal sinker clips and other extra paraphernalia will also increase the amount of water resistance the rig has, which would in turn increase the weight of the sinker necessary to hold bottom. Which will, in turn, affect your "feel," the sensitivity necessary to detect the ofttimes soft mouthing of a bait by a half-interested cod. So play it smart: the less hardware, the better.

The hook is also a very important component of a bottom rig for cod. Notice I said "hook," not "hooks"—that's one of the primary rules of codfishing: **USE ONLY ONE HOOK!** There are several reasons why the use of a single hook is advantageous over using two hooks: first of all, two hooks are much easier to get tangled when the rig is cast or just let down to the bottom—and you just aren't going to catch many cod with the hooks wrapped around the leader. By using two hooks, you are also placing one close to the bottom for less desirable fish like dogfish and ling. So why are you wasting precious fishing time reeling them in? The only time you should use more than one hook is when there is a reasonable chance of catching a different species which is desirable—like blackfish, whiting or snowshoe flounder. But if you are after cod, particularly one big enough to take the pool, dispense with the second hook.

All the hardware you need to tie a bottom rig for cod is a single barrel swivel. A 5/0 swivel is a good size, and will prevent line twist as the rig is being put down or reeled in. Strip off about ten feet of line from your reel and cut it. Then tie the end of the line coming from the reel and the end of the ten-foot piece you cut to the eyes of the barrel swivel with improved clinch knots. Now you are going to use the ten foot length to tie the bottom rig. About two feet down from the swivel, tie a dropper loop with a one-inch diameter. This is where the single hook will be attached. The hook should be either a Sproat or a Beak, no larger than 5/0 or 6/0. Using a larger, heavier hook will weigh down the bait, making it drop close to the line, increasing the chances of tangles. The snell (leader) of the hook should be at least eighteen inches; twenty-four inches if the current is strong. The next step is to tie a dropper loop to the end of the line for the sinker. The standard distance between the dropper loop for the hook and the end loop for the sinker is four or five feet, but I suggest that you ask the mate or captain of the boat you are fishing on what the distance between the two should be because it can vary according to conditions.

The selection of what sinker to use when codfishing is extremely important, more so than with most species. Remember, the "Golden Rule of Codfishing" is: **KEEP THE BAIT MOTIONLESS!** So when the boat is anchored over open bottom, you don't want to use the rounded bank sinker that will roll all over the bottom. The only correct choice is the diamond sinker, whose flat sides will keep the rig and bait motionless on the bottom. Bank sinkers can be used, however, if you are fishing over a wreck and start to lose too many rigs.

Before we even go into the techniques for bottom fishing for cod, we have to talk about the boat you are fishing on. If you are fishing on a private boat, no problem—just follow everything that applies. But there are several important things you should do if you are on an open boat. My first **strong** suggestion is to do your fishing on weekdays whenever possible, when the number of anglers aboard the vessel is usually considerably less. In the case of codfishing, the number of fish caught is not proportionate to the number of anglers fishing for them. In other words, the same number of cod will be caught whether there are twenty-five or fifty people fishing. So you increase your chances of catching quite a bit fishing with the smaller crowd. Suppose 100 cod are taken: divided among twenty-five anglers, the average is four fish per man. Divided evenly among fifty anglers, the average is only two cod per man. So you have increased the average catch twofold.

The position you hold on the rail of an open boat is extremely important, and I cannot stress this point enough. There are only two places to fish from on an open boat: the bow and the stern. The side of the boat is the third choice, only because it is the only one left. To understand why your position is important, you have to understand the habits of the cod and how the boat is anchored. Unless the wind is strong and blowing cross-current, the bow of the boat will face into the current when it is anchored. So the water will be moving along the side of the boat, from the bow towards the stern. Now cod—just as most fish—usually swim in only one of two directions: either down-current or up-current. They will rarely meander aimlessly cross-current. They will swim down-current (the course of least resistance) when foraging, and up-current when they are following a scent, like a chum slick. So the anglers who are going to have the first crack at the vast

majority of cod approaching the anchored boat will be those fishing from the bow and the stern. The angler fishing in the middle of the boat has got a problem. If you are fishing in the middle of a group of twenty anglers lining the rail it means that a cod swimming from one of the two directions will have to pass up to ten baits before he reaches yours. Why should he eat yours? If you are using a different bait than those around you, there's a chance he may hit it even after passing a mess of skimmer clams that didn't start his juices flowing. But you're still better off in the bow or stern, where your bait has a chance of being the first one the cod sees.

Many of the cod "sharpies" have learned this fact of codfishing long ago, and competition for a prime spot like the stern can be fierce—at times bordering on the ridiculous. One time I called a captain at Montauk to ask if he could reserve a spot for me on the stern for the next day. He said he couldn't because some of the regulars would go on the bluefish trip the night before just so they could have the stern position for codfishing on Saturday! That's extreme, but it gives you an idea of what the competition will do. You either have to arrive the afternoon before or **VERY** early on the day you are going fishing to stand a chance for the stern. Just tie an old beat-up rod on the rail to claim the spot. The bow is usually easier to get because most anglers either don't know it is a good position or they don't like fishing high off the water. The fact that the bow is a good position is attested to by the fact that mates invariably fish there, and who catches more cod than a mate? As far as being too high off the water goes, what does that have to do with codfishing? Personally, I prefer the bow with its fewer lines in the water and less tangles.

Line control! Line control! How well you control your line will control how many fish you catch. Once again, the object of bottom fishing for cod is to keep the bait absolutely motionless, particularly if you are using a skimmer clam for bait. This can be a tricky proposition, particularly when the water is rough. And due to the fact that most codfishing is done in the windy winter months, normal conditions make for a boat that is rolling from side to side and moving up and down due to heavy seas. This movement of the boat will also keep your bait jumping all over the bottom. Now a cod just isn't about to eat a naked skimmer clam doing an Irish Jig—it just ain't natural! The way to overcome this problem is to keep your line on a long scope. "Scope" is the angle of the line from the boat to the bottom. If the line is going almost straight up and down, it has a short scope. If it enters the water at a forty-five degree or more angle, it has a long scope. The more line you have out, the greater the scope, and the more scope your line has the less your bait will be moved around by the erratic movements of the boat.

You will have to cast your line out to get a good scope, but casting away from the boat when codfishing has several advantages. First, it prevents hook snell from wrapping around the leader, as it often does when the rig is let out straight down. By casting the rig away from the boat you will also get your bait in front of the anglers fishing around you so that it is the first one a hungry cod sees. After casting, let the rig hit the bottom, then continue to feed out line to "walk" the rig away from the boat. Be careful—casting can be dangerous on a crowded boat! Overhand casts are an absolute no-no on an open boat and are usually prohibited. So practice your underhand casting with a seven foot boat rod and an eight ounce sinker in your back yard. As you'll quickly discover, it's impossible to cast underhand when standing on the ground without the rod tip hitting it because you don't have the elevation you do on a boat. To overcome this problem, dig a trench in front of you about five feet deep, two feet wide, and ten feet long. When you have practiced enough to master underhand casting, put your rod and all the rest of your fishing equipment in the trench and bury it so your wife will let you back in the house.

Even when the line has a long scope to it you'll have to compensate for boat movement with your rod so you don't jerk the bait or get excess slack line. As the boat rises on a wave, lower the rod tip so the rig isn't moved. As the boat falls, raise the rod tip to prevent the line from going slack. The goal is to keep a uniform tautness to the line so the rig doesn't move and you will be able to detect a biting fish. Another key to success is how much time your bait is in the water—which should be as much as possible. Don't stop fishing to have a bite to eat or to do a little natural chumming—wait until the boat is moving to a new spot. Be sure your bait is the first one in the water when the boat stops, the last to come up when it moves again. Fish until the final three blasts, by which time the number of anglers still fishing has been decimated by seasickness, numb fingers and sleepiness. Tie plenty of rigs before the trip so you don't waste time re-rigging. If you gut hook a cod or a dogfish ties the leader in knots, cut it off and re-rig. If you are involved in a big tangle with other anglers, don't stand there wasting precious fishing minutes—cut off your sinker if it can be found and re-rig.

After all I've preached about the importance of keeping your bait motionless, I can understand the possible confusion that may result from what I am about to say concerning using artificial lures for cod. But when the fish are actively feeding on bait fish like sand eels, herring, small whiting or mackerel, they will often pounce on a diamond jig or a tube lure while completely ignoring a dead, motionless bait. I firmly believe that more cod would be caught if more anglers tried using artificials. You can actually use both techniques together by using two rods: rig one up with bait and "deadstick" it on the bottom while you jig with a second outfit. Check first to make sure you aren't breaking the rules of the pool, which on some boats will disqualify you for using more than one rod. It is interesting to note that up north of us, where the real codfishing takes place, jigging with handlines for cod, pollack, hake and even halibut is very popular. The rig is simple enough: the jig can be either an Ava-87, a Bridgeport diamond jig or the Bridgeport Vik-e, which is tied directly to the end of the line with a clinch knot. Do **not** use a snap swivel! Then tie a dropper loop with a two or three inch diameter into the line about three feet above the jig. A small tube lure off an umbrella rig is attached to the dropper loop. Preferred colors are red, natural, white and green. The rig is lowered until the jig touches bottom, then slowly retrieved with ten to fifteen turns of the reel handle before pausing and going back to the bottom again. Turn the handle just fast enough to make the tube lure move through the water with that magic "S" movement that predators can't seem to resist.

I could write much more about the art of codfishing, because as I said, the cod is highly underestimated by many anglers and there is much more involved than just lowering a piece of skimmer clam to the bottom and waiting for a cod to commit suicide. But if you practice and apply what you have read in this series, you'll be well on your way to becoming more than just the "average" codfisherman. (P.S. - I was only kidding about the trench, guys.)

A large crowd of fishermen and tourists crowds around the Viking Star at Montauk to watch the mate weigh in the pool fish on the "Scales of Justice." You may have a shot at catching a cod to take the pool if you follow the advice given in this article.

FIRE ISLAND CODFISHING

by Doc Grell

★PART TWO★

Clams as Bait and Chum:

One whole clam or half clam with dripping entrails, to one hook with the hook always visible is the correct formula. I have never accepted the philosophy of "the bigger the bait, the bigger the fish." Even when you attach one clam with its stomach to a 5/0 or 6/0 regular shanked Sproat you have a "boiled dinner" on the hook and must be meticulous in making sure that your hook protrudes from this mass of bait. If you want to "stretch" your bait and make it last, you can cut whole clams into halves or quarters. Experiment a little with different sizes, but **do not overload the hook**.

Chumming:

In chumming for cod over open bottom, I am a firm believer that I want my cracked clams beneath my boat and close to my terminal tackle. Since most of your codfishing will be done with winds blowing and current running, it is **very important** that you fish where your chum is being placed. To accomplish this I place my crushed clams in a steel container (inside of a washing machine—the spinner) weighted with a small ten pound anchor and send the entire bucket with a half bushel of cracked clams directly to the bottom. When on the bottom beneath my boat, I trip the bucket upside-down with a second line. I give the bucket a good shaking and retrieve. The clams are now below my boat. I follow this procedure immediately after setting my anchor. This commences my chumming process and establishes my little midden pile or miniature "wreck" of clams beneath my boat. Throwing clams into the air and breaking them with line drive swings not only scatters clams at the outset, but with wind and tide your clams for the most part land on pieces of bottom far away from your terminal tackle. In reality you are fishing around first base when your chum and the cod are eating scattered pieces on third base or in left field. This system of chumming is poor at best and at best produces poor codfishing. If you are going to follow this system, I recommend that you bat your clams from the bow so that they will drift back towards the stern assuming, of course, you haven't anchored up by the stern. At least you will have your clams some place near your boat. Since most of my cod trips off Fire Island are with sea conditions similar to those seen in "Victory at Sea," I recommend that you give serious thought to how you get your clams into the water under your boat. Another method is to place your cracked clams into a large paper bag and sink such with a sash weight. When bag reaches bottom, bag is wet; pull sash weight and, "voila" your clams are under your boat.

Wear heavy rubber gloves when smashing clams for bait and chum, otherwise you will smash your hands and drive pieces of skimmer clams into your palms. This hurts. Rubber gloves also keep your hands warm and protect your fingers from dogfish horns, codfish gills, and needle teeth when you are unhooking them. One of my friends who goes the "without glove" route, requires two weeks of hand healing from ugly scratches and abrasions gotten from cod expeditions. Also, make yourself a hook disengager, which is nothing more than a wooden dowel of one foot length, half-inch diameter with a sharp notch in one end. When you catch a cod, hold the fish still, slide the notched end down the shank to the hook, press downwards—out comes the hook. This gadget will eliminate much unneeded surgery from both parties.

Sinkers and Bottom Control:

I employ Bank and Diamond sinkers in the eight to sixteen ounce range, depending upon wave and current conditions. I prefer to use no more than eight ounce sinkers. All sinkers are sprayed with Dry-Glo, quick drying "stop sign red," orange, and school bus yellow.

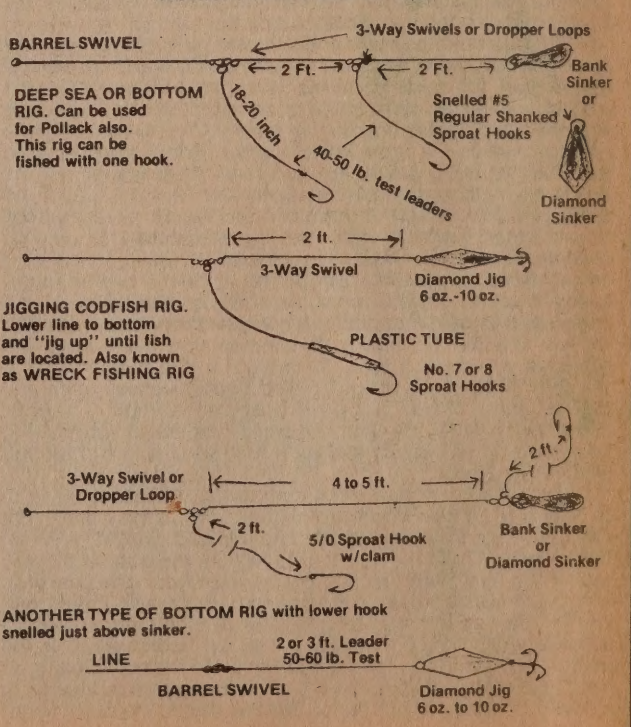
Since I fish with more than one rod, I am dead-sticking most of the time. This process involves placing rods in pole holders, allowing for the appropriate slack so that terminal tackle is not jumped from the bottom and basically leaving these poles alone until fish start nibbling or are already caught. My hands thus are not on or holding the rods. The only line which I hold is that of a hand line rigged with terminal tackle similar to those on rods. I find this process very productive in that it eliminates my neurotic tendency to always keep lifting the rod tip or keep checking my bait. I find holding one rod in my hand over a five to six hour period to be very boring and crampy.

You might ask when do I fish for cod? My answer is that I am fishing for cod. I am sitting still, eating, talking, or contemplating. I am watching four or six poles that are booby-trapped according to prescription. My hand line is also ready. When a small school of cod hit my terminal tackle, I come alive. Oftentimes a brief orgy ensues, fish are caught, hopefully there are minimum tangles, all rods again put out and peace reigns. Actually, there is plenty to do if you are restless. You can always crack a few clams and try to put them under the boat without the aid of weights. You can also have a little snort of blackberry brandy or play your radio. You might even write a fishing article.

Believe it or not, terminal tackle anchored with sinkers painted stop sign red always catch more fish than those unpainted. I have fished four and six rods over six-hour periods and have always caught more fish with tackle anchored with red sinkers. You tell me.

Eight ounce sinkers are my favorite for the simple reason that eight ounces correlates nicely with favorable sea conditions. When I am employing one pound sinkers I am usually fishing in a moderate gale and really do not belong out there on the briny. The determining factor for sinker weight is,

VARIOUS TYPES OF CODFISH RIGS


BARREL SWIVEL
3-Way Swivels or Dropper Loops
2 Ft.
2 Ft.
Bank Sinker or
DEEP SEA OR BOTTOM RIG. Can be used for Pollack also. This rig can be fished with one hook.
18-20 inch
Snelled #5 Regular Shanked Sproat Hooks
40-50 lb. test leaders
Diamond Sinker
2 ft.
3-Way Swivel
Diamond Jig 6 oz.-10 oz.
JIGGING CODFISH RIG. Lower line to bottom and "jig up" until fish are located. Also known as WRECK FISHING RIG
PLASTIC TUBE
No. 7 or 8 Sproat Hooks
2 ft.
3-Way Swivel or Dropper Loop
4 to 5 ft.
2 ft.
5/0 Sproat Hook w/clam
Bank Sinker or Diamond Sinker
ANOTHER TYPE OF BOTTOM RIG with lower hook snelled just above sinker.
LINE
2 or 3 ft. Leader 50-60 lb. Test
BARREL SWIVEL
Diamond Jig 6 oz. to 10 oz.

therefore, wave and current conditions. The sinker **must hold** bottom, otherwise your bait is not on the bottom. You are wasting your time. It is imperative also with any kind of sea running, that you pull off enough line so that the slack will compensate for any jumping around that the terminal tackle might undergo. If you have jumping sinkers and your skimmer clams are doing the "hustle" down below, you are not fishing for cod. Absolutely quiet, still, motionless terminal tackle is the key word—especially with regards to your clam bait.

In fishing for cod, there are actually large gaps of time between catches. During this period of time you should experiment with a hand line, for I know of no better way to develop line control and line sensitivity. With a hand line I can actually feel Old Whiskers breathing and beginning to nibble on my bait—sort of just sniffing around. With a hand line you can feather the sinker on the bottom, barely holding bottom so that when cod start fooling around with your bait you eliminate—more or less—the sinker from delaying vibrations. You can do the same thing with rod and reel, but it involves too much cranking and changing level of rod. Here, you have direct line contact. Try a hand line while you are watching your rods. It is sheer fun and produces fish. Many places in Maine and New Hampshire will not let you fish with a rod and reel—everything is tarred hand lines. I was brought up this way and will never dispense with the system.

Setting the Hook:

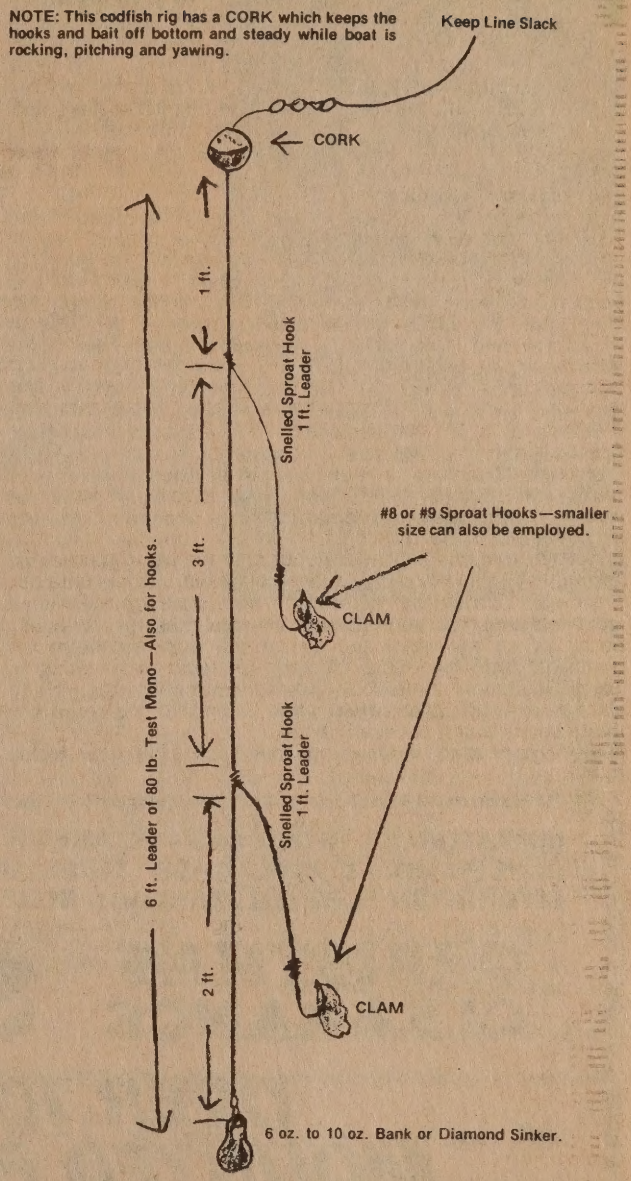
In setting the hook on cod, do not be too impulsive. Give them a few seconds to chew, taste, and swallow your "treat" before you sock it to them. They do have large mouths and first nibbles often indicate that they are only sampling your goodies. As for those who pounce on your bait with the rod almost flying out of the pole holder, or your hands, "stick" it to them with drag set three-quarters full. You can always loosen up the drag a little after you have them on their way. After all, you have waited to have a little fun, so have a little fun with their tugs and pulls. Once the hook is set you will lose very few in the "having fun" process. Do, however, have a gaff ready when they come to the surface. I would not recommend that you swing a thirty pound cod into your boat with thirty pound test line: with sixty pound test maybe, but never thirty. Cod do fight with authority and are to be reckoned with. You will know when you have a codfish versus a pesky dogfish just by the former's authoritative, heavy pulls and tugs. When your cod are placed in your barrel, keep them under a wet burlap bag. Do not allow them to begin their drying out process.

Anchoring Up for Cod:

One big mistake that many cod fishermen make is to anchor up for codfishing with undersized anchors or anchors which they would use in the bay. The codfishing season usually occurs when you have stiff winds and fairly heavy sea conditions. This calls for heavier anchors and more scope. There is nothing worse or more frustrating than to think that you are all anchored up, crack a bushel or two of clams, begin to catch fish and then have your anchor pull out because of increasing wind speed and bigger waves. When this occurs, your fishing is all over. You will never find the spot from which you left. Only you can determine whether or not you have the proper anchor. On my twenty foot Thunderbird I employ a nineteen pound Danforth with nine feet of seven-eighths chain attached to 1,000 feet of line. All I need for the bay is a ten pound Danforth. When this oversized anchor hits the bottom, it digs in. It does not slip or skeg along when set. It might break my buddy's back when he pulls it in, but we do catch fish **over** our clam chum when it is dropped overboard. We do not slide away to another spot or continue an anchor dragging migration.

In heavy sea conditions, give yourself plenty of scope. Under normal conditions, a scope from 5:1 to 10:1 is recommended. The 10:1 must be for holding in a gale. A 5:1 scope means that the length of line from bow chock to anchor will be five times the distance from bow chock to the bottom. If you anchor in fifty feet of water, you should have 250 feet of anchor line out; anchoring in 100 feet of water you should have 500 feet of anchor line out. In figuring out your scope ratio, don't forget to add approximate wave height and height of your boat to your computations. The above scope ratios are for flat sea conditions. Off Fire Island during cod season, your scope ratio should be closer to 8:1 since the wind is usually blowing, you have running seas and moderately sized waves. Better to have too much line out than not enough.

THE BENESCH "DEAD RIG"


NOTE: This codfish rig has a CORK which keeps the hooks and bait off bottom and steady while boat is rocking, pitching and yawing.
Keep Line Slack
CORK
1 ft.
Snelled Sproat Hook 1 ft. Leader
#8 or #9 Sproat Hooks—smaller size can also be employed.
3 ft.
CLAM
6 ft. Leader of 80 lb. Test Mono—Also for hooks.
Snelled Sproat Hook 1 ft. Leader
2 ft.
CLAM
6 oz. to 10 oz. Bank or Diamond Sinker.

Pulling Up the Anchor:

In pulling your anchor out in moderate to heavy seas, employ the Gloucester Method. Run up ahead to the right or left of the anchor with strain on the anchor (don't run over it) until you allow enough slack to fall back in such a way that the man in the cockpit can grab it with a gaff or his hands. When he gets this slack in his hands, he quickly ties the anchor line to the stern cleat, while the boat operator continues to slowly run ahead. By this time, the anchor is now located beyond the boat, while the cockpit man continues to pull in all slack which he will do rapidly. The line is now taut behind the boat while the skipper slowly moves boat forward pulling the anchor flukes out of the bottom. When the anchor breaks out of the bottom, the cockpit man or men very quickly pulls in the anchor, placing all retrieved anchor line in a large barrel. This technique eliminates the danger of the anchorman falling off the bow, getting soaked and breaking his back. Mastering this method also makes it easier for you to move, and more desirable, to move when you are not catching fish. I know pulling out a heavy anchor is the reason why many cod

(Continued on next page.)

fishermen stay in one spot all day when they are not catching fish. **It is pulling the anchor** the old way which is all work.

Time Limit for One Stop:

If you do not catch cod within a two-and-a-half hour period after heavy chumming, or you are encountering a tremendous dogfish problem—move. My dogfish rule of thumb is this: If I don't catch one cod before I catch fifty dogfish, I move. I have patience. Many of my buddies move after catching twenty-five dogfish. All I know is that some of my best codfishing days have begun with dogfish orgies which seem to taper off later on. You will have to decide how long you can take it. As the water temperature drops to mid-forties, doggy problem diminishes.

Weather for Codfishing:

The size of your boat, wave size, wind speed, wind direction, degree of lunacy and guts of your friends, are all important factors which will affect your catch. One thing for sure, most cod fishermen that I know who fish off Fire Island tend more towards the lunatic fringe for the simple reason that they know the winds will be blowing most of the time in November and December. To say you shouldn't fish today with winds of twenty-five to thirty miles an hour in a 42' Hatteras is an entirely different recommendation to the same guy who owns a 22' Mako. I have fished Codfish Chiller Contests in a 20' Thunderbird when I should have been spending the weekend safely in a nuthouse—sea conditions were wild. Only you can make the big decision of whether to fish or not to fish. Even when you decide to fish at 7 AM when you have a flat ocean, it is amazing to see what can happen to that ocean by noon.

Scientifically, you can say that when you have a high pressure system over the area, fishing will be pretty good. Fish tend to feed at this time. This usually means wind direction-wise, you will have a north, northwest, or westerly wind. When the winds are out of the east, southeast, or northeast, you have low pressure systems and fishing is usually bad. Stay home. A low pressure system is approaching or has arrived. Even when wind is out of the south or southwest, fishing is usually bad.

In concluding, sharpen up your hooks, get your tackle ready, keep your eye on the weather, dress warm, bring along your survival suit, buy two or three bushels of clams and try the waters off Fire Island—especially the Finger Region. Try "dead-sticking" and bring along a couple of hand lines for fun. Best of luck. **Good Fishing.**

Surf Side: BEACH BUGGIES

(Continued from page 8.)

of leveling the few beds of beach grass found there.

On Long Island, there are three main organizations which should receive your support for they, along with a few surf fishing clubs, are fighting to keep these beaches open. Probably the best-known is the Long Island Beach Buggy Association, followed by the Great South Bay Mobile Sportsmen and the United Mobile Sportfishermen. The address for LIBBA is Box 101, Bayport, N.Y. 11705, while the address for UMS is Box 271, Centereach, N.Y. 11720. I'm sorry, but I do not have available the address for GSBMS. It is easy to sit back and let someone else fight for the cause, but the time is near when a few unselfish individuals will not be able to influence the authorities without strong backing from those people who enjoy the benefits but refuse to make some effort to help.

Those of us who are fortunate to own beach vehicles have no more rights than the guy who trudges the waterfront on foot. In fact, our presence is felt more, therefore, our responsibility is greater to conduct ourselves in a proper manner.

As stated previously, there are many people who view our pastime through jaundiced eyes. On the whole, we don't have many allies in high places nor unlimited funds with which to conduct massive campaigns to state our case. For the most part, we are just the average slob who works his five day a week job and tries to steal time from his family for a few hours pleasure on the beach. In closing, let me once again urge you to become aware of the precious gift nature has placed at our disposal and which man in his infinite wisdom wants to deny us.

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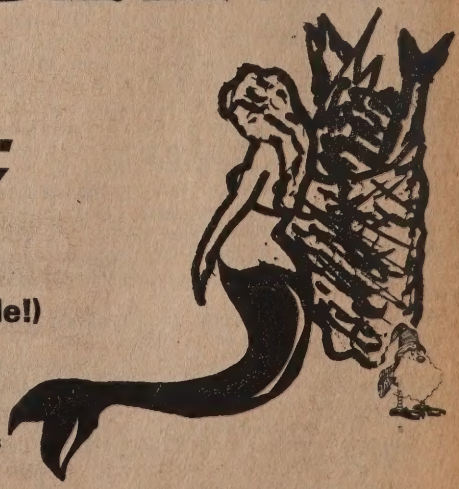

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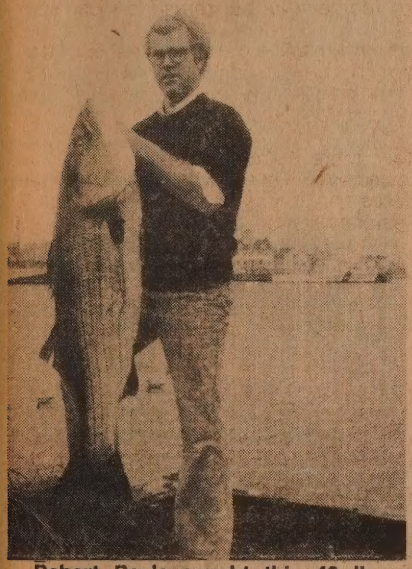
SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The gale force winds prevailing most of last week seems to have affected the codfishing, which is now only fair. Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that when he can get out he has been fishing the Cartwright Grounds and taking a mixed bag of cod, whiting and big blackfish. The captain also said that there are huge schools of big Boston mackerel all over the area and you can catch as many as you want.

capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that he was very pleased with the response to the announcement of the fishing classes he will hold this winter. John said that the class is quickly filling up and there is only room for two or three more fishermen. Those interested in taking this six-lesson advanced fishing course can contact John at 516-668-5130.

Julie III reports that Capt. Ron with buddies Cliff and Fred bagged over 500 lbs. of whiting at Culloden Point last Saturday.



Robert Boyle caught this 46 lb. striped bass on 15 lb. test line with a white bucktail, aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat "Vivienne."

HAMPTON BAYS

Duck shooting guide Charlie Miller advises that both Saturdays and Sundays gunning parties limited out by 10 AM on broadbill and buffelhead. Charlie says there are plenty of these to be had.

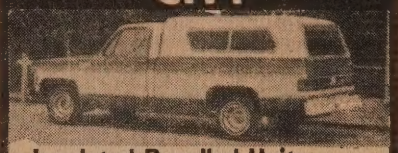
CAPTREE

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to tell us that the boat was unable to sail all week due to the rough/rainy weather and bone chilling temperatures, but that he will be sailing this coming weekend and that he has several openings for the reservation codfishing trips to be held the Monday after Christmas and the Monday after New Year's.

LINDENHURST

Peppi of the Surfside Tuna Club called to tell us that Ed Perretta won their December 11th Annual Codfishing Tournament with the one and only cod caught.

Visit J&J's PICK-UP COVER CITY



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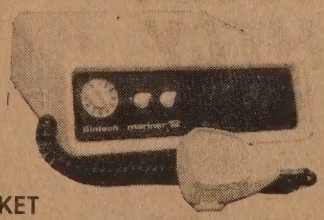

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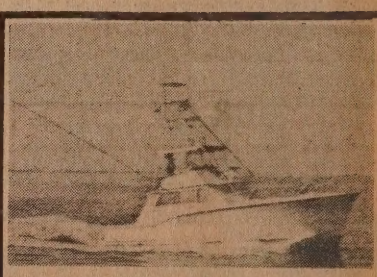

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HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports due to the rough seas, freezing cold and generally terrible conditions, it was definitely an off week. Fares did catch loads of big blackfish and some cod, along with plenty of whiting and ling, but the good recent catches of cod dropped with the recent poor weather. Richie said that the majority of the boats in the whole region experienced the same fate this past week. However, moderating temperatures which we should have with us by the weekend should allow a lot of people to resume fishing and once again make the decks run red.

Charter boat **Blue Fin II** called to tell us Sunday's charter of the Park Lounge Fishing Club of Montauk did their thing in 100 feet of water fishing southeast of Jones. Some cod were taken on open bottom, with Frank Parisi being high hook with three cod, the largest being a 30 pounder which took the pool. The next big fish was a 28 lb. cod. All the cod caught had stomachs filled with squid. Some dogs and whiting were also brought over the rail.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Joe on the **Atomic II** reported excellent fishing all week long on the whiting and ling on day and night trips. Joe is fishing around the Scotland area and he says that fish are medium to big in size and catches range from 5 gallon buckets full on up.

The **Dorothy B** reports that temperatures were too low this past week and seas too heavy and winds too gusting for him to have any good words to say on catches that he made. However, he says there are loads of fish around, mainly

Tom Crawford, Don Kruck, Ivy Panzica and John Panzica with 300 lbs. of blues, 18 lbs. bonito, big weakfish and topped with a 30 lb. bass. The fish were taken aboard the "Kim" with Lupo umbrellas off Lido Beach.

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23' ChrisCraft Lancer w/250 Chris I/B
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whiting and ling and that with some milder days, fishing should be truly excellent, so come on down.

The Eagle reports very good whiting and ling action on this past week's day and night trips at Scotland and at the turning buoy. "LOTS OF FISH."

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

SELDEN

The Anglers Den reported the heartier souls are taking a few flounders at scattered locations. Codfish reports indic acte picky fishing. The two stores now have a cod derby going. You can sign up for it at either the Moriches or Selden stores. There's been good reaction to the rod-building classes. If you want to go bottom fishing at the power plant, you have to dig your own worms or use skimmer clams.

NORTHPORT

Bowmans Sporting Goods reported the only local action is at the power plant. Small bass there are hitting small white lures such as Bucktails, or Whiptails. Some fellows are using worms but this time of year, that means digging them yourself. The shop will have clams all winter long. Besides some bass, bottom fishing is producing a few flounders. some locals were in buying rigs for mackerel and whiting which were reported to be off Montauk in good numbers.

KATONAH, N.Y.

Bob's Tackle Shop reported very little activity last week because of the lousey weather. Last Saturday there were a few brown trout caught in Cross River, but that was the extent of the fishing.

Here's Joey Huck holding an 8 lb. pool winning blackfish caught on a recent trip of the John Dewey High School Fishing Club aboard the "Helen H" out of Sheepshead Bay.

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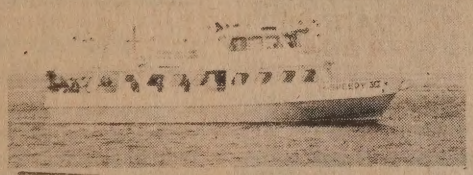

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Editor's Head: BAD APPLES

(Continued from page 4.)

more visible than good ones!

It seems to us that the access problem is a two-way street. Common sense and good judgement allow for far more fishing pleasure than harassment and abuse—for both sides!

Harry Smith and party from the Post Office took these 43 blues on Ava jigs and wire line. The fish weighed from 10 to 13 lbs., and were taken aboard the Puma. Subscriber Club Photo.

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 25 cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the serial number off their *Subscriber's Club Card* with the order. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. To run a photograph with the ad, add $13.95.

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SACRIFICE—Johnson 40 h.p. 1975 Long Shaft, Manual engine. Fisherman's workhorse. Excellent condition. Low hours. $450. 15' Fiberglas boat, positive styrofoam flotation 1500 lfs. self-bailing deck, Little Dude boat trailer and spare tire. Many extras. $350. Must sell. Need money fast. Call Pete after 4:30 p.m. 516-295-4847.

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Fish Talk: BUTTERFISH

(Continued from page 6.)

for mackerel during the winter months. So we can add yet another species to the annual offshore winter convention on the Continental Shelf. Still another reason to make sure that the 200 Mile Limit legislation works!

ANOTHER CYCLE. Most of the species of fish in the sea are cyclical. Some have drastic cycles and seem to almost disappear only to return in such hordes that we lack a suitable explanation. Others have gentle cycles and although the ocean stocks may noticeably decline, they remain abundant enough to be sought by fishermen. The cycle for butterfish appears to be about twenty years, give or take a few.

A CHANGING MARKET. Until butterfish found a suitable and consistent market as bait for everything from sharks and billfish to bass and blues, the food markets for the species were unstable. In past decades, catches were sometimes discarded for want of a suitable market. This, in spite of the fact that the fish is excellent table fare and is sought after by many seafood lovers.

TO CATCH A BUTTERFISH! This is not always an easy task. The fish have very small mouths and are frequently difficult to hook. Those that do direct their efforts towards catching butterfish use very small hooks, such as #10 trout hooks and use very tiny pieces of worm or clam to catch a bucket full.

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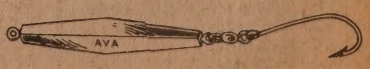

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:15	11:48	—	12:09	—	12:09	12:36	12:53	2:46	3:02	2:27	2:49	11:24	11:59	12/15
FRI.	—	12:13	12:47	1:09	12:47	1:05	1:39	1:57	3:56	4:19	3:23	3:46	—	12:20	12/16
SAT.	12:47	1:12	1:50	2:12	1:41	1:59	2:41	3:03	5:04	5:33	4:22	4:48	12:56	1:15	12/17
SUN.	1:48	2:11	2:55	3:14	2:37	2:55	3:43	4:11	6:08	6:40	5:21	5:49	1:52	2:12	12/18
MON.	2:44	3:07	3:55	4:13	3:34	3:53	4:45	5:11	7:06	7:38	6:19	6:47	2:48	3:11	12/19
TUE.	3:39	4:02	4:50	5:09	4:30	4:52	5:39	6:07	8:02	8:33	7:14	7:44	3:48	4:09	12/20
WED.	4:29	4:48	5:41	5:59	5:23	5:44	6:25	6:54	8:52	9:22	8:05	8:36	4:39	5:02	12/21
THUR.	5:16	5:35	6:23	6:41	6:11	6:32	7:07	7:36	9:38	10:06	8:53	9:22	5:28	5:48	12/22

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet..... /—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/2	7:09	4:29
12/7	7:14	4:29
12/12	7:19	4:29
12/17	7:22	4:30
12/22	7:24	4:32
12/27	7:27	4:35

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/10	12/17	12/25	12/3

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	8:45	**3:00**	9:10	**3:25**
FRI.	9:40	**3:55**	10:05	**4:20**
SAT.	10:35	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
SUN.	11:25	**5:30**	11:40	**5:55**
MON.	—	**6:10**	12:10	**6:35**
TUES.	12:20	**6:55**	12:50	**7:15**
WED.	1:05	**7:35**	1:30	**8:00**
THURS.	1:45	**8:15**	2:15	**8:40**

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